General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 August 2009

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 57 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/63/L.61/Rev.1 and Add.1)]

63/304. Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa,[1] its resolution 53/92 of 7 December 1998 and subsequent annual resolutions, including resolutions 60/223 of 23 December 2005, 61/230 of 22 December 2006 and 62/275 of 11 September 2008, as well as its resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007 on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and 59/213 of 20 December 2004 on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union,

Recalling also in this context Security Council resolutions 1809 (2008) of 16 April 2008 on peace and security in Africa, 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security, 1366 (2001) of 30 August 2001 on the role of the Council in the prevention of armed conflicts, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005 on children and armed conflict, 1625 (2005) of 14 September 2005 on strengthening the effectiveness of the Council's role in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa, and 1631 (2005) of 17 October 2005 on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] through which world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the special needs of Africa, and its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006,

Reaffirming the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs on 22 September 2008,[3]

Recognizing that development, peace, security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

---

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/56/45).

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] See resolution 63/1.

Stressing that the responsibility for peace and security in Africa, including the capacity to address the root causes of conflict and to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner, lies primarily with African countries, while recognizing the need for support from the international community and the United Nations, taking into account the responsibilities of the United Nations in this regard, according to the Charter,

Recognizing, in particular, the importance of strengthening the capacity of the African Union and subregional organizations to address the causes of conflict in Africa,

Noting that despite the positive trends and advances in obtaining durable peace in Africa, the conditions required for sustainable development have yet to be consolidated throughout the continent and that there is therefore an urgent need to continue developing African human and institutional capacities, particularly in countries emerging from conflict,

Noting also that conflict prevention and the consolidation of peace would benefit from the coordinated, sustained and integrated efforts of the United Nations system and Member States and regional and subregional organizations, as well as international and regional financial institutions,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen the synergy between Africa's economic and social development programmes and its peace and security agenda,

Underlining the need to address the negative implications of the illegal exploitation of natural resources in all its aspects for peace, security and development in Africa, and condemning illicit trade in natural resources that fuels armed conflict, and the illicit trade in and proliferation of arms, especially small arms and light weapons,

Reaffirming the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission as a dedicated mechanism to address, within its existing mandate and in an integrated manner, the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and to assist them in laying the foundation for peace and sustainable development, taking into consideration the principle of national ownership,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Secretary-General[4] on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[5] and welcomes recent institutional developments in addressing such causes and other efforts in conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding undertaken by African countries, African regional organizations and the United Nations system;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made, in particular by the African Union and subregional organizations, in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and in post-conflict peacebuilding in a number of African countries, and calls for intensified efforts and a coordinated approach between national Governments, the African Union, subregional organizations, the United Nations system and partners with a view to achieving further progress towards the goal of a conflict-free Africa;

---

[4] A/63/212.

[5] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

3. *Also welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the African Union and subregional organizations to strengthen their peacekeeping capacity and to take the lead in peacekeeping operations on the continent, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and in close coordination with the United Nations, through the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as ongoing efforts to develop a continental early warning system, response capacity, such as the African Standby Force, and enhanced mediation capacity, including through the Panel of the Wise;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States to support the peace consolidation mechanisms and processes, including the Panel of the Wise, the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework and the early warning system, as well as the operationalization of the African Standby Force;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to support relevant United Nations bodies, including the Peacebuilding Commission, and to assist post-conflict countries, at their request, in achieving a smooth transition from relief to development;

6. *Stresses* the importance of creating an environment conducive to national reconciliation and social and economic recovery in countries emerging from conflict;

7. *Invites* the United Nations and the donor community to increase efforts to support ongoing regional efforts to build African mediation and negotiation capacity;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States to support the African Union in its effort to effectively integrate training in international humanitarian law and international human rights law, with particular emphasis on the rights of women and children, in the training of civilian and military personnel of national standby contingents at both the operational and tactical levels, as set out in article 13 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;[7]

9. *Recognizes* that international and regional efforts to prevent conflict and consolidate peace in Africa should be channelled towards the sustainable development of Africa and the human and institutional capacity-building of African countries and organizations, particularly in priority areas identified at the continental level;

10. *Recalls* the signing of the declaration on enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in Addis Ababa on 16 November 2006[8] and the ongoing efforts in this regard, and underlines the importance of the implementation of the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, focusing mainly on peace and security, in particular the operationalization of the African Standby Force, urges all stakeholders to support the full implementation of the ten-year capacity-building programme, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his next annual report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his 1998 report[9] a detailed account of the progress achieved in this regard;

[7] Available from www.africa-union.org.

[8] A/61/630, annex.

11. *Stresses* the critical importance of a regional approach to conflict prevention, in particular with respect to cross-border issues such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, the prevention of illegal exploitation of natural resources and trafficking in high-value commodities and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and emphasizes in this regard the central role of the African Union and subregional organizations in addressing such issues;

12. *Notes with concern* that violence against women and children everywhere continues and often increases, even as armed conflicts draw to an end, urges further progress in the implementation of policies and guidelines relating to the protection of and assistance to women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations, and notes the adoption by the Security Council of its resolution 1820 (2008) on women and peace and security;

13. *Also notes with concern* the tragic plight of children in conflict situations in Africa, in particular the phenomenon of child soldiers, as well as other grave violations against children, and stresses the need for the protection of children in armed conflicts, post-conflict counselling, rehabilitation and education, with due regard for the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

14. *Calls for* the enhancement of the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding, consistent with Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008);

15. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the African Union to ensure the protection of the rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations, recalls in this regard the adoption and entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003), the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) and the African Union Gender Policy (2009),[6] as well as the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Gender and Development (2008),[7] stresses the significance of those instruments for all countries in Africa in strengthening the role of women in peace and conflict prevention on the continent, and strongly urges the United Nations and all parties to redouble their efforts and support in this regard;

16. *Calls for* the safeguarding of the principle of refugee protection and the resolution of the plight of refugees, including through support for efforts aimed at addressing the causes of refugee movement and bringing about the safe and sustainable return and reintegration of those populations;

17. *Welcomes* African-led initiatives to strengthen political, economic and corporate governance, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, encourages even more African countries to join this process, and calls upon the United Nations system and Member States to assist African Member States and regional and subregional organizations in their efforts to enhance good governance, including the promotion of the rule of law and the holding of free and fair elections;

18. *Recognizes* the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in ensuring that national ownership of the peacebuilding process in countries emerging from conflict is observed and that nationally identified priorities are at the core of international and regional efforts in post-conflict peacebuilding in the countries under

[7] Available from www.sadc.int.

consideration, notes the important steps taken by the Commission in engaging with Sierra Leone, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic through integrated peacebuilding strategies, calls for sustained regional and international commitment to the implementation of those strategies and their design process, recalls the adoption of the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework[9] and the Strategic Frameworks for Peacebuilding in Burundi[10] and in Guinea-Bissau,[11] and calls for their implementation;

19. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the expert group meeting on "Promoting partnerships in support of African Peer Review Mechanism implementation", held in Ethiopia in November 2007,[12] and invites the United Nations system and Member States to take those conclusions into account in support of good governance in Africa;

20. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and invites Member States to assist African countries emerging from conflict in their efforts to build national capacities of governance, including the rehabilitation of the security sector, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, provision for the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees, the launch of income-generation activities, particularly for youth and women, and the delivery of basic public services;

21. *Stresses* the importance of effectively addressing challenges that continue to hamper the achievement of peace, stability and sustainable development on the continent, inter alia, the food, fuel and financial crises, the increased prevalence of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, the effects of global warming and climate change, the extremely high rates of youth unemployment, human trafficking, massive displacements of people, the illegal exploitation of natural resources, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, the emergence of terrorist networks and the increased activity of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, and in this regard encourages the United Nations system and Member States to assist African countries in effectively addressing these challenges;

22. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States, as well as bilateral and multilateral partners, to deliver expeditiously on commitments and to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the provisions of the political declaration on Africa's development needs;[7]

23. *Encourages* African Governments to strengthen structures and policies to create an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment, calls upon African Member States and regional and subregional organizations to assist the African countries concerned, at their request, by enhancing their capacity to devise and improve their national natural resources and public revenue management structures, and in this regard invites the international community to assist in that process by providing adequate financial and technical assistance, as well as by renewing its commitment to efforts aimed at combating the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of those countries in conformity with international law;

---

[9] PBC/2/SLE/1.

[10] PBC/1/BDI/4, annex.

[11] PBC/3/GNB/3.

[12] Available from www.un.org/africa/osaa/reports.html.

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the outcome of the review of the recommendations contained in his 1998 report,[1] focusing on new and emerging challenges and persistent obstacles, as well as innovative solutions, gains and accomplishments, in the attainment of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, with due regard for the complexities of the transition from fragile peace to long-term sustainable development that many African countries are undergoing;

25. *Decides* to continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report of the Secretary-General;[1]

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution.

97th plenary meeting
23 July 2009